

March 2, 2022

Dear Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, and esteemed members of the Human Services Committee,

I am pleased to submit this testimony on behalf of the Community Health Workers Association of Connecticut (CHWACT), where I serve as President of the Association. CHWACT is a Section of the Connecticut Public Health Association. CHWACT's mission is to advance the CHW workforce through policy, education, research, and leadership. CHWACT is pleased to endorse Senate House Bill 5040, which updates provisions to the community health worker (CHW) provisions grant program to enable community action agencies (CAAs) to spend the original funds allocated to support the hiring of CHWs and their integration into delivery care teams.

Community health workers play a significant role in addressing the needs of residents facing the greatest barriers to accessing health care and social services and CHWACT urges the Human Services Committee to support the related changes listed in sections 2 and 3 of HB 5040. The increased financial support for CHWs in CAA settings that would result from this proposal will help to increase opportunities for employment and strengthen the CHW workforce in Connecticut.

For additional information on CHWACT's position on HB 5040 or other issues related to the Association, please contact Milagrosa "Millie" Seguinot, chwassociation@cpha.info or 203-685- 6429.

